

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 OMB-01

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R 241916Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3551

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ORIT, ICFTU, OAS, AR

SUBJECT: CGT POSITION ON ORIT AND FUTURE INTER-AMERICAN LABOR
ORGANIZATION

SUMMARY. FOLLOWING REPRESENTS CGT POSITION VIS-A-VIS REORGANIZATION
OF ORIT AS GLEANED FROM LABATT CONVERSATIONS OVER PAST FEW WEEKS
WITH CGT BOARD MEMBERS, CGT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPT. OFFICIALS
AND ARGENTINE DELEGATES TO ORIT WORKING GROUP AND ICFTU CONGRESS.
THERE EXISTS VIRTUAL UNANIMITY OF OPINION WITHIN ARGENTINE TRADE
UNION SECTOR ON BASIC APPROACH TO QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

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1. ARGENTINE LABOR LEADERS UNIVERSALLY CONDEMN ORIT AS A

"COMPLETELY DISCREDITED" ORGANIZATION. THEY ARE ADAMANT THAT NAME ORIT BE DROPPED. THAT POSITION IS NOT, RPT NOT, NEGOTIABLE IF ARGENTINE CGT IS TO PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION.

2. QUESTION OF FUTURE OF CURRENT ORIT LEADERS IS NEGOTIABLE; HOWEVER, CGT UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT THAT THEY CONTINUE IN THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT SOME MAY BE RETAINED AS "COORDINATORS", ADVISORS, ETC. BUT, RATHER THAN "DISCREDITED EXILES WHO DO NOT AND NEVER WILL HAVE ANY REPRESENTATIVE BASE", THE LEADERS OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION MUST THEMSELVES BE IMPORTANT LEADERS OF MAJOR, REPRESENTATIVE LABOR CENTRALS. ARGENTINES HAVE NOT SUGGESTED AND WILL BE UNLIKELY TO EARNESTLY PRESS FOR AN ARGENTINE TO FILL SECRETARY GENERAL POSITION. HOWEVER, THE PRESTIGE FACTOR IS IMPORTANT; THEREFORE, THEY WILL EXPECT SOME REPRESENTATION, SUCH AS A VICE PRESIDENCY, FOR ARGENTINA.

3. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, CGT LEADERS FEEL THAT ORIT STATUTES MUST BE OVERHAULED IN ORDER TO MAKE IT "MORE DYNAMIC AND CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH PRESENT-DAY INTER-AMERICAN LABOR RELATIONSHIPS". TO BE VIABLE THE NEW ORGANIZATION MUST NOT BE RESTRICTED TO LATIN AMERICA BUT RATHER BE INTER-AMERICAN, WITH U.S. AND CANADIAN PARTICIPATION. THEY CONTINUE TO STRESS THESIS, AS THEY REPORTEDLY DID IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVES, THAT AFL-CIO MUST REJOIN ICFTU AS PREREQUISITE TO PARTICIPATING IN NEW INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, LABATT ADVISED "CONFIDENTIALLY" BY FULLY INFORMED CGT LEADER THAT THAT POSITION WAS FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES ONLY AND THAT IT WOULD DISAPPEAR WHEN CGT OBTAINED ITS MAJOR GOALS, E.G. CHANGE IN NAME OF ORIT.

4. ARGENTINES FEEL STRONGLY THAT EUROPEAN ICFTU AFFILIATES SHOULD BE COMPLETELY EXCLUDED FROM ANY NEGOTIATIONS SURROUNDING REVAMPING OF ORIT. THEY STRESS THAT NEW ORGANIZATION MUST BE FORTIFIED TO POINT THAT IT CAN DEAL "DIRECTLY AS EQUALS" WITH EUROPEANS. DANISH LO LEADER NIELSEN'S LECTURE DURING OCT 15 ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOW TO RESTRUCTURE ORIT MADE DEEP IMPRESSION ON ARGENTINES. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY SOMEWHAT FEARFUL THAT EUROPEANS MIGHT ATTEMPT TO "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" LATIN LABOR MOVEMENT UNLESS LATINS, WITH AFL-CIO, ARE ABLE TO FORGE STRONG, UNITED REPLACEMENT FOR ORIT.

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5. CGT PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR APRIL CONGRESS WHICH WILL DEAL WITH REORGANIZATION. NEWLY STRENGTHENED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF CGT INTENDS TO FORMULATE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR REVAMPING OF ORIT, AND EXPECTS TO PLAY LEADERSHIP ROLE IN COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, ARGENTINE LABOR LEADERS' PREOCCUPATION WITH INTERNAL LABOR AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS MAY PRECLUDE THEM FROM DEDICATING TIME AND RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THAT

ROLE.

6. LABATT ADVISED THAT DURING NOV 18 VISIT TO THE CGT, OAS SEC GEN ORFILA WAS GIVEN BRIEFING ON CGT POSITION ON ORIT AS OUTLINED ABOVE. ORFILA WAS REQUESTED BY CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD TO CALL ON AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY AND ADVISE HIM OF THAT POSITION. A CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER SUGGESTED TO LABATT THAT MR. MEANY BE INFORMED OF ORFILA'S PROPOSED DEMARCHE. THEREFORE, REQUEST SUBSTANCE THIS MESSAGE BE PASSED MCLELLAN, AFL-CIO.
MONTLLOR

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